



COLLABORATIONS



July/August 1999

The Newsletter for California's Community-Focused Court Planning and Court Community Outreach Initiatives

Vol. 1, Issue 4

"A new era of collaboration between county courts, the Judicial Council, and California's communities will lead to a renewal of public trust and confidence in the administration of justice and the primacy of the rule of law in California."
—Chief Justice Ronald M. George

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County Spotlight

San Luis Obispo, Solano and San Mateo Counties: Continuing the Planning Momentum

San Luis Obispo Charts Successful Community- Focused Court Planning Along Established Time Frame

Thanks to the support of judges, local elected officials, and widespread community buy-in, the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo's community-focused court planning team has made substantial progress toward developing a strategic plan. The team, lead by **Hon. Earl Jeffrey Burke** with the assistance of **Dennis Gravelle**, Court Executive Officer, credits much of its success to a "Plan-to-Plan" structure that organizes and plots team efforts.

Following an established time frame, the team has been working to complete a stakeholder and issues analysis based on focus groups, juror surveys, and reviews of secondary data. Judge Burke expects this work will reveal a "gap in analysis" between the court's vision and the public's perception of the court. From this analysis goals will be set and a strategic plan drafted by August 30th.

County judges will devote September to review and adoption of the draft—including vision, values, mission, issues, goals, strategies, and outcomes. In

**Superior Court of San Luis Obispo
County Web Site:**
www.callamer.com/~slosoc/

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**Visit the California Court
and Community Collaboration
Web Site:**

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/
community](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community)



Solano Community-Focused Court Planning Team Moves To Engage the Public in Vision of the Future

After more than a year of preparation, Solano Superior Court's community-focused planning team, lead by **Charles D. Ramey**, Court Executive Officer, has high hopes that its efforts will capture widespread community interest this summer.

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Update, San Mateo: From Plan to Action

The work of the San Mateo Superior Court planning team, previously profiled in the first issue of *Collaborations*, continues on track toward improved court response to community needs. Having recently submitted its draft strategic plan, the planning team, lead by **Judge Marta S. Diaz** and **Presiding Judge H. James Ellis**, is set to move court planning efforts even further into the implementation stage. The combined efforts of the team and over 400 community members, court stakeholders — as well as the entire bench and numerous court employees — have resulted in a comprehensive, future-oriented plan built around eight goal areas, each with its own set of strategic initiatives. The eight goals are education, communication, helping people resolve disputes, sentencing alternatives, jury duty, families, youth, and modernization.

The planning team's current efforts center on implementing action plans to realize the strategic initiatives developed for each goal. And the list of proposed actions is impressive. For instance, in order to implement the goal of improved public education and the strategic initiative of helping young people understand how the judicial system works, the team proposes to implement a pilot *First Impressions Project* modeled on the successful Los Angeles program. *First Impressions*, based on a formal partnership of the justice system and schools, teaches young people about conflict resolution, basic civil rights and responsibilities, the structure and processes of the justice system, and local dispute resolution resources. Other action plans are afoot to facilitate adult education about the courts, including plans to work

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courtoutreach@solanocounty.com

Superior Court of San Mateo County
Planning Web Site:
www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/sanmateocourts/comoutreach.htm

Planning Facts:

Number of hits on California Court and
Community Collaboration Web site during
June '99:
397

County-Level Economic and Demographic Trend Resources To Be Distributed

The AOC will distribute a resource list for examining California county trends to all Presiding Judges and Court Executives. The list cites trend resources on: population, race/ethnicity, sex, economic development, natural resources, governance, and community development, as well as the Annual Profile Series for 20 California Counties. The information will also be posted on the Court and Community Collaboration Web site.

Distribution of Court Community Outreach Handbook Reflects National Interest

Since its release in May, *Dialogue: Courts Reaching Out to Their Communities*, a resource handbook for developing and enhancing court and community collaboration efforts, has become the subject of much nationwide interest. Produced by the

Independent Evaluation of Community-Focused Strategic Planning Initiative Under Way

A telephone survey of county planning team members will take place in July and August. A required part of the **State Justice Institute (SJI)** grant that funded community participation in the statewide conference and follow-up workshops, this independent evaluation of the strategic planning initiative will be conducted by the **Justice Management Institute (JMI)** of Denver, Colorado. JMI will contact two members from each county planning team, the team leader, and one team member selected at random. Members selected will receive a questionnaire before the first JMI telephone contact. The subsequent telephone interview will take approximately 30 minutes. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the community-focused strategic planning

JC/AOC Take Court Community Collaboration on the Road

Responding to the building statewide and national momentum behind court community collaborative efforts, AOC staff and Judicial Council task force members are taking a leadership role in sharing their expertise at an increasing number of professional gatherings. AOC Strategic Planner **Shelley M. Stump** and Staff Analyst **Katy Locker** recently presented at all three California Mid-Level Management Conferences, as well as at the 14th Annual Conference of the National Association for Court Management (NACM). They will also present at a State/Federal Judicial Council gathering in November.

In September, **Justice Thomas E. Hollenhorst**, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, and member of the Judicial Council's Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee, will present at the Judicial Education Conference in St. Louis.

Downloadable Web Site Resources Available:

- ♦ *Dialogue: Courts Reaching Out to Their Communities* handbook www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/handbook.htm
- ♦ **Team Planning Resources:** www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/planning/phase2_resources.htm

**California's Judicial Outreach
Initiatives Highlighted in
*Albany Law Review***

The current edition of the *Albany Law Review* (vol. 62, no. 4, 1999) profiles the benchmark work of California's Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach. The report by **Presiding Judge Veronica S. McBeth**, Los Angeles Municipal Court, was presented at the recent National Conference on Public Trust and Confidence sponsored by the ABA, the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and the League of Women Voters. The article details the role and efforts of California's special task force in institutionalizing community outreach and court community collaborative efforts into the life of the courts.

Judge McBeth's report sets forth the task force's approach to renewing community respect

for the courts — an approach that

**Catalog of Planning and
Outreach Products &
Resources Being Prepared**

AOC planning and outreach staff members have undertaken the comprehensive cataloging of products and resources currently available to California's community-focused court planning teams. Once complete, the catalog will be provided to all planning teams. Please contact Jack Urquhart (415.865.7654) to inquire about items listed:

Judicial Outreach Products:

- ◆ The Final Report of the Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach, 2/9/99*

- ◆ *Dialogue: Courts Reaching*

**Contributions for Collaborations?
Contact Jack Urquhart
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415.865.7654**



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Initiatives

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Dates to Remember:

**Summer 1999: Draft Strategic Plan or Status Report Currently Due at AOC.
December 15, 1999: Final Draft Plan Due at AOC.**